Rec March 13
Ans same day

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Mobile, Ala.

Editorial Rooms, Mobile Register

J. P. STELLE, *Agricultural Editor.*

Mobile, Ala., March 11, 1880.

Dr. George Englemann.

Dear Sir:

If it is not asking too much will you please drop a line letting me know your opinion relative to Catalpa speciosa as a distinct species? Do you regard it as a distinct species, or is it a mere variety of C. bignonioides? Regretting to trouble you and hoping you may find an occasion to command some service at my hands in return, I am

Truly yours
J. P. Stelle.

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MISSOURI
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Rec March 29
Ans — 30

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Mobile, Ala.

Editorial Rooms, Mobile Register

J. P. STELLE, *Agricultural Editor.*

Mobile, Ala., March 27, 1880.

Dr. Geo. Engelmann.

Dear Sir:

Please accept my thanks for your favor of the 13th, which I found in waiting on my return to-day from a trip through Florida. I am dieing a little hard over that Catalpa question, for I have been contending that the Catalpa of the lower Southern States and that growing above the Ohio river did not differ sufficiently to justify the formation of a new species. But I yield to you, as a matter of course— I have sent for the Jan. number of the Botanical Gazette and shall publish your description.

Yes, Catalpa grows a native along the rivers of Alabama, and now that we have two species I must tell you that it is *C. bignonioides*. Enclosed are a few seeds from one of our natives. I do not suppose *C. speciosa* is indigenous to any of the lower Southern States.

Truly yours

J. P. Stelle.

Command me at any time when I can be of service to you.

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Rec Apr 22
Ans May 18

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Address,
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Editorial Rooms, Mobile Register

J. P. STELLE, *Agricultural Editor.*

Mobile, Ala., April 20, 1880.

George Engelman, M. D.

Dear Sir:

On my return to-day after an absence of two weeks I found your favor of the 30th ult. in waiting. Please accept my thanks for your kindness. I have just read your description of *Catalpa speciosa*, as published in the Botanical Gazette, and a comparison shows that it clearly points out the species growing here as *C. bignonioides*. I find it in the forest where it seems to be indigenous, but, as this region of country was first settled at a very early day, it *may be* that our apparently-natives have spread from introduced trees. My friend Dr. Chas. Mohr, of Mobile thinks not, however, but for my self I am not entirely satisfied with reference to the matter. However, I shall look into the thing carefully in the course of the present season, and for that purpose will make a trip up several of our rivers, and possibly some of those in Florida. The result of my observations I shall take the liberty of reporting to you. I think we shall be able to settle the question as to geographical limit of the two species before the present season is over—for my own part I will do all I can towards it.

I have long been well acquainted with your Northern Catalpa, having been mostly raised on the shores of the Ohio river, where I first worked as a practical botanist. On locating here some twelve years ago I gave the Southern tree no particular attention, supposing, as but one species had been mentioned by our botanical writers, there was but one. Now, on comparing the tree with my recollections of it as it appeared on the Ohio and the Wabash, I am surprised that I had not noticed the marked difference before. In order that the difference may appear to perfection I have sent to Mess. Douglass & Sons, Waukegan, Ills, for *speciosa* trees, which I now have growing side by side with our *bignonioides*.

You will see by enclosed specimen, collected to-day, that our Catalpa lacks some time of blooming; therefore, if the flowers which you examined from Baton Rouge, in March were of this year's production they must have been from the earlier-flowering *speciosa*, as the isothermal of Baton Rouge is now below that of Mobile. At any time

Yours to command.

J. P. Stelle.